

Visit of Mr. Li Peng

170. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Senior Chinese leader Mr. Li Peng visited India during January, 2001;

(b) if so, the purpose of his visit and the outcome thereof;

(c) the major issues discussed by the Prime Minister and the Senior Ministers of his Cabinet with the Chinese Leader during the visit;

(d) whether in particular, the Sino-Indian border dispute was discussed with the visiting Chinese leader; and

(e) if so, his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Li Peng described the primary objective of his visit as the promotion of friendship and co-operation with India. His visit was part of the ongoing process of high-level exchanges aimed at further developing bilateral relations.

(c) to (e) Issues pertaining to bilateral relations and the international situation in general were discussed. The boundary question was discussed in broad terms. We have proposed that the process of LAC clarification should be expedited. It was agreed that the modalities would be discussed in mechanisms already set up for this purpose.